



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

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February 21, 2006

The Honorable André Bauer  
President of the Senate  
State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, East Wing  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 1074, R-229.

I commend the thinking behind this bill because it represents an ongoing discussion between business and educational leaders on making two-year or technical education a more acceptable choice in the education marketplace. The General Assembly has been a vital part of the formula that has led us to a great technical system that has a unified image or brand throughout this country.

Should it be determined that we do, in fact, need to rename our technical system, for the sake of economic development, I don't believe we should have 10 or 15 competing brands across the state. In this bill, the Tri County Commission on Technical Education would be allowed to change the name of Tri County Technical College to any one of three possibilities. This is the second time this year special legislation has been passed allowing a technical school to change its name.

Two weeks ago this administration expressed concern with H. 4394, a bill that allowed the Spartanburg Commission for Technical Education to change the name of Spartanburg Technical College to one of three possibilities. We warned that it would set a precedent for every technical school in South Carolina to chart its own course with regard to brand identity. We were also concerned about the real possibility of having multiple institutions with multiple names, and the impact it would have on marketing the state for economic development. The passing of S. 1074 shows our concerns were warranted. Should the Tri County Commission decide to rename its institution in a manner unlike that of the new name of Spartanburg Technical College, then the uniformity and perception of our state's technical system could be negatively affected.

South Carolina is one of the few states remaining with an established technical system, and it has developed a reputation nationally for being able to work with businesses

The Honorable André Bauer  
Page Two  
February 21, 2006

coming into the state to quickly and effectively train workers. In addition, the technical system has become an important option for young workers as an affordable way to develop work skills.

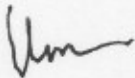
Our Center for Accelerated Technology Training Program, or CATT program, is one of the oldest and most highly regarded workforce training programs in the United States. Over the past 45 years, the CATT program has received recognition at both the national and international level and has served as an effective economic recruitment tool. The CATT program was instrumental in bringing international companies, such as BMW and Fuji, to South Carolina. These companies have become important corporate citizens here in the state.

Currently within the Senate, there is a bill that allows for a system wide name change among the Technical Colleges. This bill accomplishes this while ensuring that some uniformity still exists in the system with regards to naming. We believe it would not be best to engage in the process of changing each institution's name individually when there is a piece of legislation currently in the Senate that does this on a statewide basis.

A strength of the Technical College System is greater coordination than we see in the traditional university system here in South Carolina. One of the greatest challenges we face in South Carolina is the large number of higher education institutions. With 33 public institutions and 79 campuses, higher education in South Carolina has become fractured and uncoordinated. This lack of structure is costly and is contributory in the debate on higher education costs currently before our state.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing S. 1074, and returning it without my approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sanford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Sanford